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Dave Sprout Second Interview, 2015

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Studio with me tonight is Dave sprout paralegal from the Lewisburg prison project. We figured out before we went on the air that Dave is in fact the most frequent guest on this show so Dave welcome back. Thank you Prof. appreciate you. So tonight were to be talking about issues at USP Lewisburg putting the prison in a bit of a broader national context I think. Towards the end of our talk here for any of you listening out there if you want to give us a call the number here in the studio is 57057734 89 so if you been on the show before, but I'm wondering for listeners who might be new if you can I just introduce us a little bit too USP Lewisburg and also to the work of the Lewisburg prison project short of paralegal with the Lewisburg prison project were nonprofit personal rights organization who views with conditions of confinement for the middle District of Pennsylvania for the local, state and federal institutions. So we cover pretty much the entire little district there is approximately 55 in 55,000 inmates in the middle District between the local, state and federal so we are only two of us work at the project and so we are swamped at times, but we try to do the best we can with the resources we have all the special management unit that Lewisburg you know is a unique institution in the Bureau of prisons as it is a lockdown facility. The guys are in their cells. 24 hours a day in their double cell and that's the big key is ugly that one of the only institutions where guys are locked down as well as double shell. Now they do get one hour, one hour a day five days a week on rec if they're allowed to do that some of the cells that Lewisburg to two men cannot walk in the cell at the same time. That's how small it by 10 nine by Levin things like that so it just makes for situation that's very volatile on many levels. So, speaking of the volatility. I last winter sewing in over the weekend of February 13. There was quite a serious event at the prison someone if you can talk to us about that. And then I'd like to know whether there's been any any follow-up. From there, was our understanding that on our boiler was February 13 was a Friday in the morning there was an incident with an inmate and there also had been couple days before that some policy changes by the administration. They had the take away any access to razors for the man in phases one and two, meaning that they could not shave, whatever they may want to do with with the razor and that was an issue for for a lot of the men and they wanted to have a discussion with the administration regarding this and the that was not did not happen and it was possible, I guess, would be considered a good demonstration of some kind and that there was a ministration used their use of force was was over-the-top, all probably on one block. They were 30. The inmates were shot with pepper balls – concussion grenades and flash grenades were used in the cells were windows were blown out of the back of their cells in once once the inmates were taken out of their cells of this then went on to another block later that night in the next day it went to three different blocks so happened over almost 2 to 3 day. There were serious injuries to inmates they were. That was the main gist of what it happened its oral understanding that there was to be an investigation by the Bureau prisons internally regarding this. Obviously, we have not been privy to any of that. I have not told where there's been any results out or anything in that regard, we would hope that there is an internal investigation going on regarding the use of force that that these men were subject to know when using internal investigation is

actually entail on the part of the beer. Well, I would like to hope it would be an outside independent organization of some kind, either the office of the return Inspector General that is an arm of the Department of Justice is not part of the Bureau prisons but as part of the Department of Justice and they look into allegations of criminal or abusive tactics by by staff members. Any federal organization so we have written to them regarding this incident. I know several inmates have done the same ugly families and regarded that we would wanted an independent investigation is also my understanding that the that the union had some issues with the handling of the of of that those three days also and this is the prisoner got that's my understanding yes the that staff would be the staff. The correctional officers union had some issues because the about object cannot speak for them, but I believe they had some issues with the warden in the administration on how some things were handled believe they might've went to Congressman Moreno regarding their issues. I do not know what the outcome of that sure that's maybe an contracting agent about that, but again it was both sides and was about sides because I don't believe the guys in the staff have to be on different sides, but the but I believe both sides in this incident had some issues with how things were done and now have you as a prison project received any response to these requests, for we have not we normally or or what I believe our focus is to put put people on notice of things and I understand we would not be made known of any investigation because of our so it's more to let them know were asking for and hopefully that people are doing the right thing with whatever their job is in and to investigate, especially when something of this magnitude happened. We were probably dealing with 50 to 60 inmates if not more, being conservative. There can in the type of of the munitions. If you want to call them that were used on on on the man. Certainly, at least MRI seemed very over-the-top using 50 or 60 men. That's a total population of how many of I have not checked the statistics on how many rat Lewisburg lately. The last I looked it will probably maybe close to a thousand to 1100 in the special management unit. There are a few hundred medical cadre workers who who are general USP type in May 2 who are just like they would be at Allen would her cane and they have a job they worked in the kitchen. They do those type of things, but the majority of people Lewisburg are in special management and in the term cadre workers is used to describe in place of the word inmate well to tell you the truth that that is a new term that I've heard just within the last couple years with Lewisburg so I take it to be there, just they're just guys that are regular USP type inmate but they have because everything that usually has a job at that whatever institution thereat except for the men in special management, obviously, but that they they would do whatever we needed to be done with in the institution. Now that I said that is a new term for me and I must put some limits on where that came from. It seems he for misting and best have to have there been subsequent serious offense of the prison there have been almost on a at least a weekly basis of not daily. All you also send an individual type ones are rec cages sold but we believe in August of this year, 26 or 27. There was a fairly serious incident on one of the blocks. With that in all the some groups of inmates that the weather was a geographic group gang type work that that got into a very serious assault or fight

but I guess would be more though the way and it sounded like the staff took a while to get some get them under control. But this is block special management program is a four phase program in phases one and two. Generally, were at Lewisburg in phases one into the inmates are locked in four hours a day in phases when they reach base free by BOP policy. They are to be out of their cells approximately an hour and 1/2 to 2 hours a day for for recreation for showering and they are not restrained. This is trying to work them back into a general population and it's our understanding. It was this block or phase 3 block where this altercation or incident happened. We believe there were a couple couple guys were taking the hospital so there was some serious injuries again and again. This, in my mind it just shows you know that the futility of this program like this where by locking guys in for for your two with no programming nothing to work on that there is trying to change any patterns or behaviors that they it is more to warehouse guys in my opinion so but the phase 3 lot again. It is a step in the right direction, but it is a situation where the inmates are not going to be safe. Why is this allowed to happen here at Lewisburg and invite this to me why why is the SMU allowed to have that that would be that's generally what but again they buy policy that for for the guys to get out of this program. They have to go through all phases and to reach a phase 3 where possibly you don't feel safe being around other people and you are now forced were you you you need to begin their situations with people who may not want to program it makes for very serious possibility of of of assaults and works here and so what's likely to happen to those inmates well what was happening before, at least, or understanding was phases wanted to order Lewisburg and then when when guys would reach phases. Three. They would go to another institution. They would go to USP. How would they want USP Florence there a few other ones where they were out of this type of setting at Lewisburg. Now whether that is better, worse, I can't say that because everybody can have an issue. At any institution, there's no question about that, but this program just when you have guys locked up in their cells like they are here and treated the way they can be of there's a lot of frustration and then when guys reach levels three and four. If they haven't asked to grind whether it again. Whether it is a gang issue or personal issue. That's the time you know these type of incidents is delivered in happening and just continue to happen when you have a program like this and are these men who are the ones who were involved in this incident are they likely to get not back down to faith well that that would certainly be a possibility with prior practice of the Bureau of prisons. Now again I can't speak for them, but it certainly seems to me because it's our understanding that a couple days before this incident. There was there was another incident in the same same same block different tier with the same groups would seem to me that somebody must know something like this was going to happen. Now it opens up the door is is is something that they wanted to happen to justify their program and that that's always been a concern for me. When the violence they like to say these guys are the worst of the worst and when they have when there's violent incidents. Is it just goes to their mind. The show will look how bad they are. We need this program so but in reality they set it up so might perpetuate the program. I believe they certainly produce the

conditions that would drive anybody to acting in ways that they do imagine that this will have long-term thing that these incidents will have long-term effects on the existence of phase 3 of 12 and that's that. Certainly very good question. I do not know the answer to that. It would be would seem a couple different scenarios whether it would be if people cannot be safely out on phase 3 of Lewisburg. Should there be a pastry at Lewisburg. The other would be if this is their way of perpetuating the violence of Lewisburg and so they can show when justify this program then it may continue, but guys will be getting her that that's an again I it's like I'm not sure but I do believe when the men are out in those those couple hours when they're not restrained. Staff also is at different then different with them. Then when they are in phases wanted to. When staff is not around any inmate that's not restrained it's more back to a regular penitentiary where staff has to follow certain rules. Also, because the inmates are hard on restrained and that's part of the problem as I see the special management unit that the some of the staff when there they can do almost anything they want because the guys are there never around them when they're not in restraints of some kind that changes when guys are not in restraint talking about grown men here who remember what happens to them. So I was always surprised when I heard that they were going open the phase 3 block at Lewisburg because of these, but I certainly can't. Don't know the thinking of the Bureau prisons and given up trying to figure out what their motives are but but I do believe that it does put staff in a different light. When when it's pastry now. I knew we were talking earlier and in and you said that there's been some hiccups in the administrative remedy process of wondering if you can just first talk to us about what that process is and then maybe talk a little bit about what they were. The ministry of remedy process is something there was a federal called the prison litigation Reform Act that says that before any inmate can bring a federal lawsuit regarding conditions or a constitutional claim they have to exhaust their administrative remedies. This goes for local, state or federal but in each prison system. Each county each state has their own administrative remedy process and the courts have said whatever that process is the inmate has to follow its different from state to state and Midwestern particular case that inspired this long to make people go through the well Congress, in its infinite wisdom thought there were too many frivolous lawsuits by inmates so this was their way of saying that the unit we want to weed out the frivolous cases, but in reality they made a 20 day in the federal system wanted a statue of limitations because if you do not file your administrative remedy within 20 days in the Bureau of prisons. You can be precluded from ever getting in the federal court matter what you issue whatever that issue what so like, is in reality it's a 20 day statute of limitations, staff, and ministration knows that very well. So what happens and is not just Lewisburg but but it just is. Runs rampant at Lewisburg from our understanding. There are certain forms that need to be done there called the BPs there's a BPA BP 910 11 that's the administrative process in your present the BPA dispose of the informal where you deal with your unit team or staff to informally resolve your your grievance but Lewisburg. They need to file form that some institutions you can just do it verbally at Lewisburg, you need to have a BPA four-minute is for the problem. The guys are having or

the unit team is not giving them the BPA so they asked for form they can't get it if they move on to their BP nine which goes to the warden in the institution. It will be rejected because you did not have a BPA so what war they will get a BPA and they will turn it into their counselor, case manager and never get a response so they move on to the ninth and again it's rejected because of that, and what I try to tell the guys and in there any listening or or thought is to you if you asked for form and you can't get document that document anything you can who you ask. When you ask him. And then if you can get the form within a day or two, right out your BPA to just on a piece of paper explaining what your issue is say why you did on the floor and entered it in the staff if they won't accept the document that move onto your BP knowing explaining why you don't have the BPA or if you do file your BPA and that you get no response within five days because number that BP nine has to be filed within 20 days that's that's the BP knowing is what starch you were process so we we would like anyone who has an issue that they want to grieve. If they can't get the form do it on a piece of paper document you gave it to same way if your BP knowing is rejected because you don't have an eight follow your BP 10 explain why explained. Always explain your issue so that the court, but what the guys have to understand is this exhaustion process is the BOP is not the one who decides if you exhausted or not it would be a federal judge who ditched comments that the judges Bible and in most of the cases I've seen he's going to hear she's going to look at what did you do as an inmate to try to exhaust your ministry to remedies that are within your power number here Lewisburg and in a lot of compounds the BPs or they can be gotten off while you're out going to lunch going to wreck these guys don't have that opportunity. So they have to remember that the writing grievances and in the BPs for judge not for the beat for the Bureau present and if it's rejected, you just move on to the next until if they reject all the way through, but you've done everything within your power. I believe that a judge would say you've exhausted your ministry to remedies. Now that's my opinion. But guys can't do something that that they have no they have. They have no recourse here and they just need to do the best they can under the circumstances they have and the guys get frustrated and so understandable and more of the other problems here. Lewisburg is the retaliation when you try to file a grievance and and it's real coming. There's no question I've had some guys tell me face-to-face that with some of things that happened, they won't bow Lewisburg because of the retaliation, but maybe down the road but that's the problem with this certain type of case which is constitutional claim. If you don't exhaust within your 20 days, you're probably precluded from him from getting in the federal court. Another are exceptions. This is always is, but it's something I hope the guys that if they want to file that they follow through on the best they can and try to document any and everything that they who they gave it to the date and if there's Celie or someone else on the block and also documented to do a declaration at some point in time. That's just that much stronger to show the court that they've done everything they can to try to exhaust their administrative remedies. Is there any way to hold the correctional officers responsible for refusing to hand out the BPA is like. It certainly would seem to me that that that's part of the job. Knowing this is not anything that's just

port of the job the unit team so they're not doing the job of whether there there's a due process issue where they're keeping people or First Amendment keeping people from court that would be somebody smarter than me would have to say that but I do believe that that is a possibility of so. But that's why the process is only to get into court. Then the judge would determine what part of the problem here is it's it's so very difficult to find any attorney willing to take an inmate case to begin with. And if there's a question of lies that well I think there's many part of it. You have to understand where were at. Here there's there's there. The law firms are very small if if not so practitioners the larger firms in Philadelphia Pittsburgh where they have associates in and they do pro bono work through it to a greater extent they have the resources we just aren't close to them that some of them will look indicates is here another. The problem is the law itself. The prison litigation Reform Act has made it very very difficult for an inmate to two to do a constitutional claim, and that even with an attorney so and US attorney's office are the ones who represent them and they fight as as an every right to idling, but it is when you when you're stating because they their line is we don't violate anyone's constitutional rights so we will we will we will like this for as long as possible. We we have two ongoing constitutional claims of the going over 3+ years may still have not even gotten through the discovery phase. Because of that, that's the problem. It's just so hard for an individual and attorney or even a small form trip to take these cases it really is it so unfortunate because of that and you think about now occupied here in 90.5 WPB you in the studio with me tonight is Dave sprout paralegal with the Lewisburg prison project. For those of you tuning if you want to give us a call here in the studio number is 570.

57734897 Dave I have also there's been some proms with the mail coming out of the prison can talk about that the least I can talk about mail or project in and that is something that we usually do not did not have any kind of a problem, but we are hearing from guys who said they written to us, two, three, four times and never got a response. When we never got a letter from them so letters are not leaving the institution. It would seem now I don't know where where what's going on here that we do get a lot of water, so I'm not saying that there no letters but it it seems that sometimes when somebody's trying to exhaust your ministry to remedies or or have been assaulted or have an issue that seems to be more the time that sometimes the mail was his big and also the personal mail to their families, or are there. There's an issue with that. Also in the also incoming mail to them from family unit was being held, two, three, four weeks, sometimes before mail was given to to the guys and in their policy and then I have a memo from Wharton saying that though we follow the policy and mail was given to everyone within 24 to 48 hours of the coming in the institution. Obviously there needs to be some checks into the mailroom because you have to understand most. A lot of these guys if they do have phone access. It's one or two telephone calls a month so the mail was really their only way of keeping in contact with her family, friends, appointment is with with projects like us visit or almost out of the question because visits on phases one and two are generally done by video even though it's at the institution they still don't even get to see their loved one. So many guys did not even want their families to come because they are all from all over the

country to have to understand that they're not too many from just central Pennsylvania so the mail was so important and to have that dealt with in a way even just the holding of mail for weeks at a time that the men that are in this program in in and generally for prisoners is a paranoia and rightfully so. In when they write they have to us and they don't get a response. They assume that the letter never made it out so that just builds on their frustration, paranoia, whatever it is, and in such an easy fix it have every right to the mail coming unless they've abused and somehow in and that's that something totally different here. The Bureau prisons can open their mail they can look at the make sure there's no problem. So it's not something that that they just seem to be taking more and more and making it just so much harder for the guys to even just exist here and just. It may sound like a small thing, but when you when you were locked in 24 hours a day and you have not gotten a letter from your family weeks at a time when you when usually write to you at least weekly. You wonder did something happen to know all those things and it just works on the same way with one of the other one of the few other things that the men have here is the one hour of wreck their title by policy to have one hour wreck five days a week and we've been hearing special within the last year to two years where the wreck is being taken away from them for heavy heavy things or for no reason at all. We we heard now. Again, I can't confirm this, but that a correctional officer came on the one block and said no. Blacks are going to wreck today that clearly to me is is a racist, not just statement but to dictate to say that one race can direct and one can't now. We've also heard from many of the other that they're getting the records being taken away to so it's not I'm not heard where it's not going but but you they look forward to that. Our out minutes. It's almost the keep them saying so again this is something they take away for you can have direct taken away for having a Apple after lunch that was too hard to even eat because that's that's considered contraband or your cell is not ready or your your bed wasn't made were just things like that or you weren't ready you are ready. When I called you correct. Even though they're standing on the door ready to go and correctional officers know that I don't where this is coming from weathered individual officers doing it. Just deciding because they have the power to do it whether it's a something from higher up. I don't know the answer to that but all I do know is that the men get very frustrated when they wanted what to wreck and are not allowed for at times not even knowing reason for or so you know you like what you file the other day so you know maybe you get wreck next week. Things like that wreck is not to be used as a any kind of punishment, especially in this type of program where that's all the men have five days a week so that that's another issue that again. I feel that the administration or the staff just builds on the frustration of the men when you do these things. They have to have some release and I understand that some of the public say they shouldn't get anything and I understand that what they really get nothing here when I go out to wreck. It's basically a gold cage. There's nothing in it. They get a little bit of fresh air and maybe some sunshine and get the work out a little bit outside the cell. That's not given anything here in Lewisburg so but when it's taken away from them again. The frustration level and it just rises to the point where it makes such a volatile

situation inmate on inmate inmate on staff those type of things that I believe could be dealt with in a way to reduce those now it's a prison then and there's always going to be some violent something I understand, but I do believe there's things that could be done here Lewisburg that they could maybe make that a little less by treating the men in a little bit more humane way. What I hear you describing to me this is a program that's based on physical restraint and deprivation and then they're adding basically psychological torture. On top of that, absolutely, I really believe that that there has to be some someone, somewhere, and I don't know maybe I'm just in my mind, but had they came up with this program and how what is the best way for us to try to physically, psychologically tear these men down to the point of where I think they believe then they will be something some someone we can control them better. But in reality they're just making things worse for everyone. There's more. So there's that and and I have said this before, I believe there will probably more staff assaulted other institutions because of what happened the way they're being treated here Lewisburg and unfortunately for those staff members but it's something I believe it could be there. I think it's filmmaking. Unfortunately, the canoe can you talk a little bit about the cameras at the facility. Yes, there's this is written to the war on a couple different levels the camera like I'd written guys who been putting hard restraints over the time they they want and that I've talked to that's been and whether it's there physically being damaged because of that which most of the more when there in 412, 424 hours they have to justify that every two hours that they are still in their minds aggressive or something when most of the time they're not doing anything because here in such pain and I wrote a letter to the warden earlier this year asking that when to our checks by policy they need to be checked every two hours and medical every four hours that you just take a video camera with you with sound and I have them went when guys are put in these hard restraints as videotaped Deming that this is not something that they don't have, and because you're telling me these guys are still aggressive and are still threatening and they're all this just happened on camera there a video or picture is worth a thousand words. As I say so just show that this person is still out of control and deserves to be in restraint if they're out of control. That's what the restraints are for. I understand that but we are being told. Time after time after time that they're not out of control because there there there there doing whatever staff want, sometimes even during the night. They don't even come into the cells, but the document that they do just have a camera and if the inmate is cooperating is not causing the problem. Then everyone knows it and they can be taken out of restraints within. If not that time. But the next two hours and it I almost could hear the laughter in his letter back to me like you are crazy aren't you that we would do this. He saying that all what we we would have to change policy for all 121 institutions for this which is just completely makes no sense to me. They they can do it when they put guys in restraint and I think it would would alleviate a lot of the problems when guys are in progress right another. The issues the guys have with cameras are there's cameras on the block where which supposedly 24-hour today and guys are taken out of their cell and they may receive in its report saying that they assaulted staff and they say

will look at the camera. You know like I didn't sold anybody but the guys have to understand that these block cameras or on a rotating item. I'm not very technical but I guess that is what how it is. But there only save for 7 to 10 days. So if if there's not a request made to have a block camera Him if they they asked two weeks after an incident where they get a write up in war. Maybe the result by staff that those images are gone and in the guys have to understand the need to request them right away because sometimes will get letters asking this and and by the time we get the letter worth it was too late and I will request as soon as I get a letter but that but again this is something that it's an antiquated system even more humble in County prison that we had many dealings with before the fire. They upgraded their camera system at that facility is in their main commissioners were well this is going to save us money for lawsuits because inmate says this or this happened. The camera shows what they found out was it called more gourds than it caught inmates and I believe that's probably the reason Lewisburg that it there's not a more up-to-date camera system, how, what, in Minco about requesting the video you need to write to you all the it's better they do it themselves because of the time issue. If it's an incident report where they've gotten say they assaulted staff, they would go to with go to UDC or with. That's a first phase of the disciplinary process at that point they need to put in writing that they want the video say that's one of that they would go to that fairly early gift if they felt they were sold by staff all in didn't and they would want to put a copout in to the captain were to win a W as soon as possible saying I want the video for this block for this date and time say they can write what about that too. It's always a concern about the timing because you and I have no even talking with the legal department who I like make the request to what we don't know if it's going to be seven days this week or 10 days or maybe 11 days so there's no hope. I might make a request within 10 days of that that's gone so they can even say it's For one week, 10 days it gets and I don't say what they make up. It almost seems that's the case, is the prison required to honor those requests. Well, it would be by policy they they are now. It would seem to me if it would be something where they might've been assaulted by staff or something happened to them were not getting a misconduct incident report. There's always the illegal use of the inference would be if the video they asked for the video and the video was not preserved properly that they could get an inference from the court down the road that what they say happened happened because the video talk. But again, that makes it that way down the road and so so it's just something if somebody really believes that the camera is is helpful. They need to make those requests as soon as possible. See listening to, but not here 90.5 WPB you we are going to take the briefest of breaks and be back to continue conversation with Dave sprout back now occupied and .5 for those of you tuning into may have a question about USP Lewisburg or the Lewisburg prison project. Please give us a call here in studio number is 570577. 34897 if you can talk a little bit just about the condition of the cells that the prisoners are in. Well it's it's my understanding I we are toward a few of the blocks and been in some of the cells but yet understand this institution was built in 1932. So the conditions just physical plant of the institution is deteriorating. Weaver guys say where the walls are. They can

chip away at that now not a security type, but the elation is this terrible were in the process you with all coming on now when they have steam heat there in once a steam heat is turned on theirs and most of the cells, there's a pipe and and inside the cell and even in the dead of winter. A lot of times cells are very hot. Because of this, there's the ventilation because again because of the how. How will the institution is it is not good at all and you have to understand that guys want to say on a daily basis, but there the use of chemical munitions here of all the all staff now carries pepper spray, Lewisburg and and they can use it almost indiscriminately, it seems, and in cells and then they use the proper bold if somebody if there may be an issue which guys who are even in other blocks. When these things go want who have asthma, or breathing difficulties because of the ventilation system have to deal with the pepper spray and teargas type elements, so, so, again, just the physical plant of Lewisburg makes it very difficult for for the guys in their cells, so that's that's always the issue for the guys to open up a new block and Alan went talk a little bit about that's my understanding that USP alum would that Dave opened up what they're calling a secure mental health unit that the step down program and it's our understanding that this may be and in response to a class-action lawsuit that happened regarding the ADX control you out in Colorado where they had severe men with severe mental health issues to who should not of ever been in a program of been in for years at a time in solitary confinement, and these were mental issues which predated entering solitary confinement which emerged as well. I believe it probably was but they were somewhat history and then it being in these parts of units can cause mental health issues and they have opened this unit here for some of the ones with severe mental health issues and it's our hope that it will not only be men from ADX but also men from the special management unit who need who have severe mental health issues need to be in a setting where they're being treated for those mental health issues and it does seem like the program that they're doing that out would know it it's in its infancy. So, but it does seem like the Bureau of prisons is is doing the right thing for these guys. Now what will be the issue is they need many more of them because are so many more guys with severe mental health that that needed and so it may be a step in right direction. That's another issue. Lewisburg all the time is the guys that are there with mental health issues with her came to the program with mental health issues are on medication. Most of their lives were mental health issues and become the Lewisburg and many times are taken off their meds. There was unfortunately couple months ago there was a inmate died. There was a confrontation with his cellmate and it's our understanding that he may have had severe mental health issues was not on meds at Lewisburg and the was just again I don't know that that will probably come out at some other point but but here when you have somebody with severe mental health issues who have been on medication for this documented for most of their lives and they come to a place like Lewisburg and they're not on any kind of meds it, it's just tragic and this is the type of things that can happen where a person was.now you also did every other where maybe somebody with mental health issues will hurt or possibly kill somebody who did not because of their mental-health issues works both ways, but it's just

something that these government should not be in this program. If you're going to have this program, which again we don't believe it should be. But if you're going to have it certainly cannot allow people here with severe mental health issues. It's when you talk about inmates with the documented prescription not being given the medication is that is a requirement of the program is that a decision being taken on the part of Lewisburg. Most of the incidents is that we know what again will only know when people contact us are ones who been on medication and when they get to Lewisburg. There's some incident that happened with the medical staff saying that you're abusing your meds you because it on the line in most institutions guys go to the wind and get there. Here they have to come to the cell so someone from the medical staff gives them you have to take your and you show that you're not taking it whatever it would be and what we hear. Time after time is oh you didn't take your pill or you spit it out or you you abuse that somehow these guys is a why would I do that I need this. I know I need this but it's documented that get an interim report and the policy Lewisburg. There is no if you abuse your medication abuse it using their word nonaligned you're taking off your meds straightaway no consultation with the doctor. No consultation with a psychologist if it's mental health but but these are these are not just psychotropic meds but but they're the ones that seem to affect more people, but any any med that you may be on that it's their policy that they have no tolerance for abuse of medication and and again this is just one somebody staff member saying oh you you didn't take your pill when when I gave it to you and and just because of that you are taken off your meds and that's happens. Time after time after time here. Is there any recourse for an inmate whose experience. That is what what is the best was to him. I don't know Terry from them. I would, you know, I would ask them to grieve it to at least go through the policy and practice putting try to get it to me on the BPA) and the and we have given. Now you know because you're dealing with with with the professionals here coming doctors, physicians assistants, nurses of their license people, whether they're in a prison or whether there at that evening at hospital or in you know they have a code they have to follow. We have we have given out different you to file with the Department of State in Pennsylvania regarding this, because these are not medical decisions. In my mind, these are our decisions to punitive this is that it certainly seems that way because I don't get some of these meds at the wrong they're not there not to be stopped right away. You know they need to be weaned off of them from some of the psychotropic meds at my thing. I'm not a doctor obviously but but there just stop cold turkey. And no, I believe that's that's a lie relation of their license in my mind. If that's the reason that that's being done where there's no at least what we're hearing. I'm not saying it every time, but there's no consultation with the doctor on okay I don't believe we need this anymore because it's just you got an interim report you abuse just the meds you're off, that's the policy, Lewisburg, and again I believe that that that comes out the licensing issue. Almost. But I will write to the medical department on behalf of an inmate that this may happen, asking that they be evaluated back under meds if appropriate. Again, I can't make medical decisions for for Dr. but it certainly seems to me when somebody's been documented on this even by when Geiser and other institutions for years.

This is BOP doctors and psychologists and psychiatrists to who who believe there ought need to be on but I do believe that the you know the mental health department. Lewisburg should write up a paper because they have gotten more people who have severe mental health issues to not have mental health issues anymore because they need to let let the community know how to do this because once you been documented for years but become the Lewisburg and they don't have the spa problem and and that's an issue that there are some groups are looking into and and I hope it's something that that is brought in possibly also at some point in time it will be us. We don't have an attorney, but the but this is very serious in that there's so many serious things are going to Lewisburg, but the what happens to men who have serious mental health issues here it's it's just appalling to me on so many levels and the things it should, just should not happen in any setting, let alone by professionals, and even though this is my understanding you know, even though there inmates there are medical care should be up to the standard of what the outside community does not matter if they're an inmate or not. Now, in reality, we all know that's not the case but that's the standard that should be well and it is a correctional setting that's that's one thing that mean they there, how there That's correctional type decisions security type decision when it comes to the inmates medical or mental health. I think that that's something that needs to be addressed by the professionals, not by not by the ministry staff for correctional officers and I believe that's not something we hear that the psychologist make grounds in the blocks and you know sometimes guys don't even know around the block and if you have an issue your social talk to a psychologist outside the door and and so the whole block that whatever your issue isn't in a prison setting that can get you killed me, that it just symbols that the final what you issue might be so course, most guys won't do that because, for obvious reasons. If they could get you hurt were or worse. And then they just deteriorate farther and farther so it's it's a real real issue with the was in my mind with the medical and that the mental health staff and how they treat you deal with the people with documented issues here now. Again, there's always just like on the outside of try to get drugs or you know from doctors or you know that that's inmates are no different than we are on the outside but when it's documented in an they have the capabilities here of having tele-meds with the psychiatrist asked for that for many guys and it's something that it's available. It's something that they could do nothing hasn't happened, but in our experience it happens is enough to where it where you have the chance for a psych kind Chris to deal with some of the people who... My understand that the psychologist can't prescribe medicines that only psychiatrist I do that. So here you have the medical staff doctors who don't deal with the mental health making decisions on on meds that the where they have the it's it's a BOP's psychiatrist you. It's not outside but again that's that's their decision. It seems to be, but it isn't occupied here .5 WPB you I said even wanting for our last-minute time together we can we can talk a little bit, but the prison to a little bit of a larger context. Finally, you were telling me that Tom Moreno had come to visit the facility did anything, that that's that's my understand the Congressman Moreno in there was another Congressman also and I apologize. I don't know thinking that

they both toward supposedly Lewisburg and the Allen would complex. What came of that that the problem usually with any contours by anybody from the outside. They get to see what the administration wants let them see now if they can say oh I want to see this or that and they can but they won't get the CI I would doubt very much that they want on G block or the block at Lewisburg and talk to any any of the guys that have no sugar on the door where they they can't even walk out on the block all day long workforce only, but it was in hard restraints for a period of time and see what the hard restraint look like with feces and urine and blood all around it not cleaned up. I would would doubt that the Congressman, and I don't always see I die with the Congressman that I believe it is all that that he would he would look into it. I believe that so I'm sure what he sold was probably what the ministration wanted him to see. And again I don't know the reason why the Carson was there maybe was not to do with me. I don't know that that was the case then he probably had a successful trip, but again that's that's part of you know what it is that seem to think that you know anything that comes out of there should be dealt internally with the Bureau of prisons and and or or believe is they had every chance and and they're not doing anything so something needs to be done by somebody with more authority that can look into the practices here and all people accountable for what's happening that's that's the key. Because I do believe once once some people are held accountable. That things will change, but when when staff or other people believe they can get away or do with whatever they want that they would not get away with anyplace else other than the Lewisburg that nothing is going to change what kind of outside parties would be able to gain this kind of access will be the Department of Justice. I believe the civil rights division should look into here because there certainly is a race issue at Lewisburg. Now obviously that's not totally you know, but that there certainly is a race issue at Lewisburg. There I believe the office of the Inspector General should looking at because I believe that that there have been no criminal acts done by some staff member again that's not all staff members and it's not the majority, but when they take somebody who's in restraints and we heard this lately were guys of been in hard restraints. This shackles handcuffed Martin chain where they can't move and they're being assaulted by staff when working hard restraints by by some of the people at least. Again, this is what were hearing. That's like I don't have verification of, but that's criminal. That's something that's when you was sold. So that's an assault. Whether you're a correctional officer or whether it somebody on the street now of the culture offers being sold by an inmate were to go they can protect obviously have no problem talking unprovoked unprovoked when you are in restraints and and you are in your assaulted me. Not that's criminal of the office of Inspector General. That's their job. There was earlier this year in Coleman use pickled in the two correctional officers were arrested one for folding an inmate and an than both of them for falsifying documents. That is a crime. Doesn't matter if your correctional officer not I think there's a type of things that need to be looked at at Lewisburg and I mentioned the prison project is been in communication with the office of vector. General yeah we do, they they usually don't. If we get a response would be well that the Bureau of prisons needs to look into this. This is not

something we feel is necessary. But when the bar gets assaulted or killed then then then everyone wants to look into things, but these are things that could be done ahead of time where we don't see anybody being assaulted or killed, obviously. So these are things that should be in your presence put themselves out there to be the most professional correctional officers in the world showing that's the show and don't be that and and a lot of these issues would go what sounds like one thing that would actually help us if there was a correctional officer who worked at Lewisburg or maybe used to work at Lewisburg who wanted to start talking that's that's that's a tough thing and I understand that but but it almost is. I do believe most of correctional officers do not condone what goes on but again silent sometimes is damaging almost as bad but they're just inmates and nobody really cares to Pres. Obama made some remarks lately about solitary confinement and I'm wondering if there's, you know, this seems to be a moment of at least moderate prison reform he's commenting on solitary confinement is not being acceptable policy and DOJ is scheduled to release 6000 federal inmates Ray shortly wondering if you if you do see this is a time of prison reformer, or if these are just certain isolated instances in your mind. Well, I would like to think this is a good chance to make some real changes. The president visited the FCI El Reno believe, at least despite her saying it was the first president to visit a federal institution that sent so now that's a start and I you know I watched his meeting with some of the inmates in El Reno and was very good. I think EQ has a real would like to change the culture and in some of the present and and I would like to think maybe with this with the solitary you know those issues will be built and there's almost a this is an and I'm not getting into politics your goal, but the sometimes some of the people on the right or some of the more staunch prison applicants so I don't try to label anybody who ever no part of it is the amount of money that's being spent here. I can imagine what the what taxpayers money is being spent for people that are being hospitalized because of the assaults and stabbings and things like that are happening Lewisburg. The people want to change because of the money. That's right, I don't keep you know whatever reason, it would be. I do believe that the solitary is an issue that's that's out there. I do believe there's you know it's a time hopefully the makes to maybe make some changes and I believe that's on us at the project and others to try to cultivate that as much as possible so that people do realize what goes on most times people just don't want to know is on and and that's understandable. But these things are these people do get out and the you know this is just something and it's the right thing to do. Whether people want to admit that are not the these are human beings. They are there therein prison because it broke the wall. The punishment is the freedoms taken away. Okay that's that's our society, but not to be put insert circumstances and that they are like at Lewisburg like it ADX and other prisons. In the end to be tortured in the captain and inhumane way. That's that's not part of the sentence for sentences to keep the freedom what you know you take freedom away from them so hopefully hopefully with the president you delete here hope it doesn't become a political issue that if if the president comes out in favor than other groups have the house but it does seem to be some there there's impactors some bipartisan Avicenna

then house on some some sentence reform right at say anything. Mandatory minimums and and so that that is not wall yet but it did. That's a real good step. I believe that guys are not like sentences that could be reduced down to 25 years and that's that's that's important things again is not for everyone, or anything like that but it pleased at the start and it's not something that we've had a long long time. So I do take some some hope hopes a good thing. Sometimes it is anything is you want to say to the inmates at the prison of, well, you know, I just would you want to apologize to the guys that we have not done you know enough, but we do the best we can, but it's never enough. And you know we haven't forgot about you but I know it's hard for you guys appreciate the chance to be on your shelf. Thank you my prissy coming Dave right music here and I will be back